

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT

1. ON NOVEMBER 7 THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, CONSTANTINE PAPACONSTANTINOU. PAPACONSTANTINOU IS WIDELY RESPECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT AND IS ALSO A CONFIDANT AND CLOSE PERSONAL ADVISOR OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. THE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL. PAPACONSTANTINOU REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED HIS WARM FEELINGS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO GREECE IN THE POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD.

2. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OCCASION TO REITERATE TO PAPACONSTANTINOU THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT AMERICANS FEEL AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RETURN OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN GREECE. HE ALSO OUTLINED OUR VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS GENERALLY. HE ASSURED PAPACONSTANTINOU WE ARE TRYING TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN SEEKING A FAIR SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS.

3. AT ONE POINT, THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND THE FACT 1976 IS ALSO AN ELECTION YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT OF
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MEMBERS OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CAME

UP (PAPACONSTANTINOU RECALLED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD ORGANIZED SUCH VISITS IN THE PAST) TO OBSERVE BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES AND THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE WOULD EXPLORE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL PROJECT ALONG THESE LINES. PAPACONSTANTINOU SAID HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER WITH THE PARLIAMENT. THEN, DEPENDING ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND IN TERMS OF GREECE'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SET UP A MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS PROGRAM. KUBISCH

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